

Pemberton Urban District Council.

Medical Officer's Annual Report.

20th FEBRUARY, 1901.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Twenty-Seventh Annual Report on the sanitary condition of the Urban District of Pemberton for the year ending December, 1900, together with the New Tables, I.-IV., issued by the Local Government Board, and Revised Tables, A and B, of mortality and sickness within the district, classified according to diseases and ages, with C (summary of report) for the Lancashire County Council.

The births registered during the year total 869, as compared with 835, 769, 839, 893, 771, 849, 814, 844, 749, and 816, for the preceding years. Of the number of births 426 were males and 443 females. In the first quarter 247, in the second 219, in the third 207, in the fourth 196. In the first half of the year 466, in the second 403. The birth-rate is 39·5 as compared with 40·9, the average for the ten preceding years, and less for the last seven years than in the seven years previous.

The deaths number 432, as compared with 449, 387, 401, 381, 384, 518, 372, 366, 398, and 351, for the ten preceding years. In the first quarter 116 were registered, in the second 104, in the third 122, in the fourth 90. For the first half of the year 220, for the second 212. Of the total, 219 were males and 213 females. 220 (57 first quarter, 45 second, 75 third, and 43 fourth) were amongst children of two years of age and under, 125 of these under six months (33 first quarter, 27 second, 43 third, and 22 fourth). The death-rate is 19·4 as compared with 20·3, the average for the ten preceding years; also less than this for the seven previous years as compared with seven former years.

The rate from the seven principal zymotic diseases is 3·2 as compared with 4·2 for preceding year and 2·75 for previous ten years.

Diseases Prevalent.—Enteric fever, whooping-cough, and diarrhoea contribute four-fifths of the total number of deaths. No deaths are recorded from small-pox, typhus, erysipelas, or cholera.

There are no common lodging-houses in the district.

No deaths nor cases of plague, peripheral neuritis, neutris from beer, metallic or other poisoning were discovered.

During the decade, viz., in 1896, a mother and child were the only cases of small-pox. They were removed to Hospital, where the child died on February 5th. The family from Worsley Mesnes were placed in quarantine at the Hospital. Those who had been in contact were vaccinated, and the disease was stayed.

In the first year influenza made its appearance, became epidemic among old and young, returning each year, and causing three deaths, including two under five years of age (in 1900). Secondary cause, convulsions.

The Epidemic of Measles of the previous year abated in January, causing two deaths, and five for the whole year, as compared with sixteen for December, 1899.

Scarlet Fever.—108 cases and five deaths—one death to 21 cases of sickness. There were four cases of sickness notified in December. Strict watch is kept over this disease as it is expected it may possibly become epidemic during the year. School Teachers should be trained, as part of their education, to recognise exanthematous disease, and promptly deal with the same by isolation.

Whooping Cough continued from the previous year, causing 13 deaths, .5 per 1000; almost confined to Newtown and adjoining places.

Enteric Fever.—120 cases and 13 deaths—one death to 9.2 cases of sickness, rate per 1000 = .54. This disease has remained with us more or less during the decade, was reported on by Dr. Parsons in November, 1886, also inspected by Dr. Spear in 1890. It continued chiefly at Newtown and South Ward, became epidemic in South and West Wards towards July, on the last day in August causing one death, and eight in September, and ending about the middle of November. I forwarded a special report on October 24. As many cases as possible were removed to Hospital. Thirty-two cases and two deaths—one death to 16 cases, as compared with one to 9.2—treated at their own homes. Some partook of the character of typhus, and the death registered as typhus may have been one of this class. Some of the houses were low, short of light, and ill-ventilated. These seem to have been suitable places for the propagation of the fever, especially when sewer gas has had access by the slopstone pipe. The first cases were in property of this class. In three, underground wells were found; one at a farm was the only source of drinking-water they had, the water from the other two was used for washing-up purposes. The fever subsequently appeared amongst relatives. Ashpits drained into the main sewer may have contributed to the spread of this fever at Brickcroft Cottages, in West Ward, where the drain traps are close to the doors. The rainfall during the months covered by the special report was greatest during the year. A moist, foggy, evening atmosphere, carrying filthy emanations from ashpit midden system, or the latter being emptied on an already sodden ground surface, and unpaved, may possibly also have been a cause of infection.

Water Supply.—Source from public service, upland and underground in rock strata, slightly hard, degree of same lessened on filtration (wholesome). On December 31st all the reservoirs were full, storing 70,000,000 gallons. The Engineer reported on a new reservoir for storing 7,000,000 gallons of water adjoining Bispham filter-beds, and on Nicholson's pit, at Arehes, for compensation water. I advised in a special report that notification of enteric fever or other like disease occurring in the district in which the works are situate, should be sent to this Authority, either as an act of courtesy, paid for, or compulsory powers obtained.

Diarrhea caused 31 deaths, all under five years of age. Rate per 1000, 1·3. One died in the last week in July. Became most severe towards the end of August, continuing through September, causing four deaths in October.

Phthisis.—16 deaths, rate ·72; as usual, in damp, low-lying districts.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia.—91 deaths, rate 4·09, as compared with 3·46 for the previous year.

Great improvements have been made during the last ten years throughout the district, and will be continued, such as electric lighting, public parks, street widening and paving (£20,000 having been borrowed for Electric Lighting), better class of workmen's cottages have been built, houses are nearly all occupied and do not remain empty long. Some ashpits are still below the surface of the ground 12 or 18 inches. I advised that all ashpits draining into the sewers should be reported by the Nuisance Inspector, who suggested that the floors should be raised. These ashpits are unsatisfactory, and when emptied the liquid flows for many yards along the surface of the ground—paved or unpaved.

In my opinion it requires some such arrangement as indicated by me in the special report presented on October 24th, in order that proceedings may be carried out successfully wherever fever is prevalent, or anything threatening to affect injuriously the public health, and cleanly domestic habits must be enforced.

Slaughter-houses, cow-sheds, and bake-houses have been frequently inspected, and there is no complaint of any offensive process of trade.

As the result of frequent and systematic inspection of the district the following statement is given :—

1st Quarter.

At Lamberhead Green, new shippon built and two old ones improved after service of notice for overcrowding and insufficient ventilation.

New closets and ashpits erected at Lamberhead Green and Newtown in place of others old and dilapidated. Notices served.

Nuisances from flooded cellars, accumulations of manure, wet and leaky ashpits and defective spouts and roofs dealt with.

Notices served and complied with for paving and flagging in insanitary backyards, Sydney Street, Bentinck Street, Wenlock Street and Bridgewater Street.

Many stoppages of house drains and sewer gas escaping attended to, and drains taken up and re-laid after notice served at Spring Bank and Newtown.

2nd Quarter.

Dilapidated and leaky ashpits at Goose Green, Little Lane, Newtown and Lamberhead Green re-constructed or repaired. Limewashing of dirty houses attended to at Goose Green, Worsley Mesnes and Lamberhead Green.

Old foul pan closets and fittings condemned in two houses at Spring Bank; notices served and new modern closets with separate cisterns, proper soil pipes and ventilators fixed. Drains also re-laid. Enteric Fever previously existed here.

Houses at Lamberhead Green and Rose Hill reported without proper drainage and slopsinks; notices served, and made satisfactory. Others with untrapped drains and minor stoppages seen to.

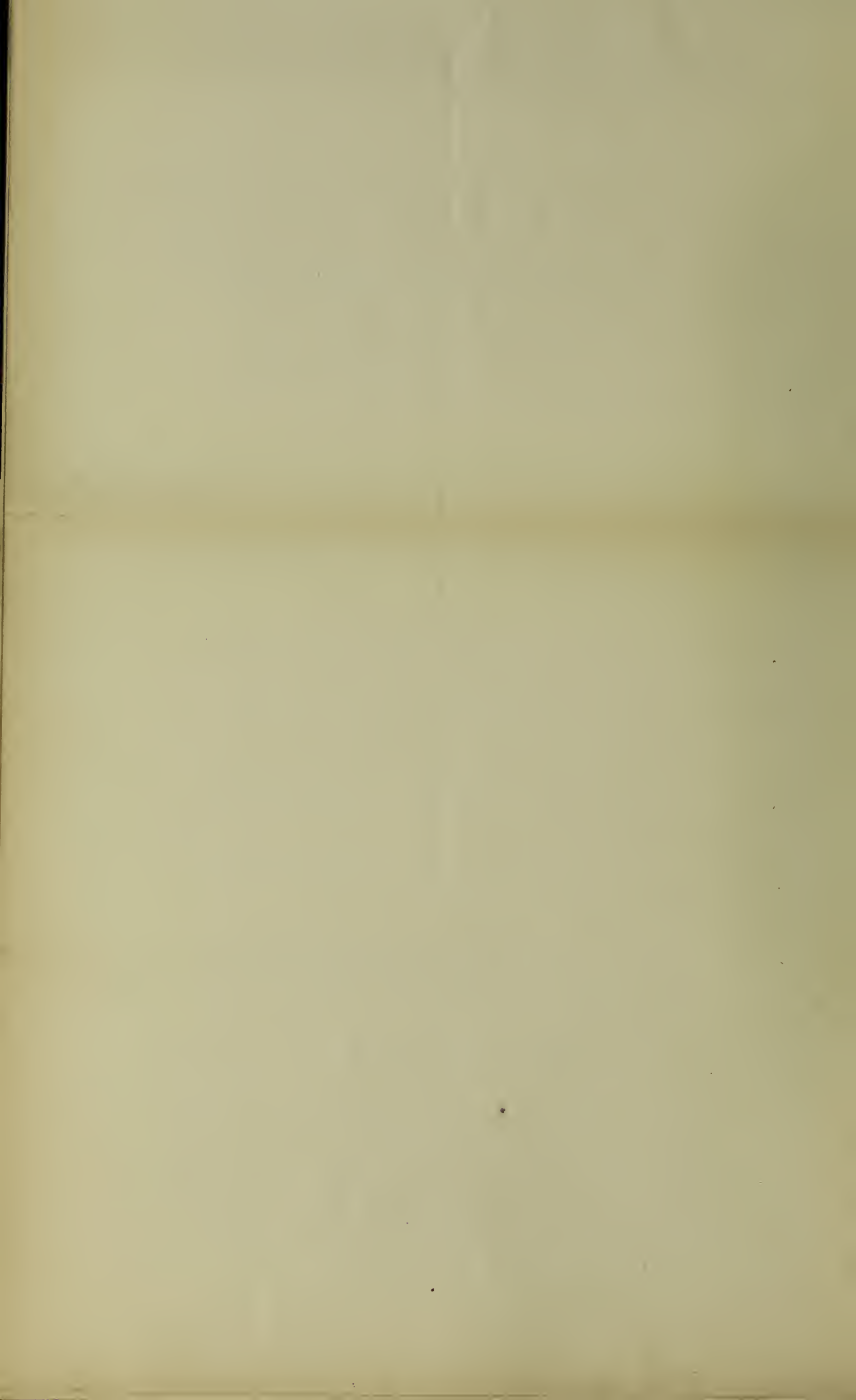
Notices served for overcrowding of dwelling houses at Rose Hill and Thwaites' Delf, and nuisances abated. Defective rainwater spouts at Goose Green, and chip potato shop at Lamberhead Green without proper ventilation.

Insanitary condition of houses found at Gerard's Shunt, floors, &c., being dirty owing to insufficient supply of water; after arrangements made with owner pipes were laid from the Council's mains.

3rd Quarter.

Condition of old one storey cottages at Lamberhead Green reported upon; afterwards same put into habitable condition by general repairs to walls, ceilings, roofs, &c., cleaning through, flagging in front, and drainage improved.

Paving and flagging of common backyards at Fleet Street, New Street, Kitt Green and Brackley Street. Notices served.



Smoke nuisances reported from shoeing smithy and colliery chimneys.

A number of house drains stopped and opened. Untrapped gullies allowing sewer gas to escape put in order at Newtown and Goose Green; and drains taken up and re-laid throughout at New Street and Albert Street after serving of notices.

Houses limewashed at Goose Green, Half-way House, Worsley Mesnes and Park Lane.

Nuisances from leaky ashpits abated at Highfield View, Enfield Street, Newtown and Marsh Green, and others repaired. Notices served, New closets erected at Barracks, Goose Green.

Well found polluted with sewage at Glass House Farm and usage of water for domestic purposes stopped; afterwards service provided from Council's main.

Notices served for overcrowding of dwelling houses at Half-way House and Lamberhead Green complied with. Abatement of overcrowding of shippens obtained at Lamberhead Green and Newtown.

4th Quarter.

Wet, leaky, and dilapidated ashpits and closets repaired, roofed and cemented at Goose Green, Newtown and Lamberhead Green. Notices served.

Common backyards at Brickcroft, Duke Street and Albert Street, reported as requiring paving and flagging; notices served and complied with. Also yards and back passages ashed and put in order at Rose Hill, Half-way House, Goose Green and Lamberhead Green.

A number of dwelling houses requiring limewashing at Worsley Mesnes, Lamberhead Green and Newtown, and overcrowding of dwelling house in Silver Street dealt with after notices sent.

Wood milkshed found with gulley trap enclosed at Soho Street, and unsuitable shed used as a shippen. Notices served.

Stable kept in unsatisfactory condition and without drainage at Chapel Street. Insanitary shippen re-arranged at Harvey House Farm, and shippen yard paved at Newtown.

Surface of the playground at Kitt Green Schools in a bad state.

Several underground polluted rainwater cisterns filled up. Defective rainwater spouts and roofs seen to at Enfield Street and Lamberhead Green.

Ventilator fixed at Goose Green to main sewer.

The Council's man has swept 534 house chimneys at 6d. each. Though no summonses have been taken out many warnings have been given where persons have had their chimneys on fire.

Two hundred and fourteen old chaff beds and mattresses have been removed ~~to~~ (by the Council's men) and destroyed at the Sewage Farm; they have also cleaned and disinfected the whole of the house gullies throughout the township.

Sixty-one ashpits and privies have been repaired, raised or roofed over, and twenty-nine privies and sixteen ashpits re-constructed.

During the year 5,827 ashpits have been emptied, against 5,187 in 1899.

Ninety-eight houses have been fumigated with sulphur during the year, and a large quantity of infected bedding and clothing removed to hospital and disinfected in the gas stove. Carbolic Disinfectants are supplied without charge and have been freely used.

Thirty-four new houses and seven shops have been erected during the year.

The rainfall recorded at the Council's waterworks during the year ended December 31st, 1900, was:—

				1900.		1899.
January ...	...	...	...	4.63	...	4.51
February ...	...	...	...	2.79	...	1.32
March ...	...	...	...	.80	...	1.83
April ...	...	...	...	2.33	...	3.69
May ...	...	...	...	1.98	...	2.98
June ..	...	...	...	2.61	...	1.33
July ...	...	...	...	1.77	...	2.75
August ...	...	...	...	5.84	...	.59
September	...	...	...	2.02	...	5.10
October ...	...	..	...	4.74	...	3.09
November	...	...	...	3.72	...	2.00
December	...	...	...	4.21	...	2.90
				<hr/> 37.44 <hr/>		<hr/> 32.09 <hr/>



Infectious diseases notified:—

Month	Typhoid Fever	Typhus Fever	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Diphtheria	Puerperal Fever	Membraneous Croup	Total	North Ward	South Ward	East Ward	West Ward	Central Ward	Total
January	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	4	1	—	1	2	—	4
February	8	—	6	2	—	1	—	17	5	3	2	6	1	17
March	2	—	6	2	1	—	—	11	2	2	3	2	2	11
April	7	—	11	2	1	2	—	23	9	1	1	8	4	23
May	9	—	10	1	1	1	—	22	4	4	2	10	2	22
June	1	1	9	7	—	—	—	18	1	2	3	6	6	18
July	1	—	6	3	—	—	—	10	3	—	3	2	2	10
August	21	—	6	—	—	—	—	27	6	9	3	7	2	27
September	17	—	12	2	—	—	—	31	7	5	5	14	—	31
October ...	35	—	20	1	—	—	—	56	10	8	5	21	12	56
November	14	—	17	1	—	—	1	33	6	8	5	11	3	33
December	3	—	4	1	—	—	—	8	—	1	1	3	3	8
Totals	120	1	108	23	3	4	1	260	54	43	34	92	37	260

	Typhoid Fever	Typhus Fever	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Diphtheria	Puerperal Fever	Membraneous Croup	Total	Estimated Population
North Ward ...	19	—	33	2	—	—	—	54	5,800
South Ward ...	32	1	9	1	—	—	—	43	3,400
East Ward ...	10	—	23	—	1	—	—	34	2,800
West Ward ...	49	—	24	12	2	4	1	92	5,000
Central Ward..	10	—	19	8	—	—	—	37	5,400
	120	1	108	23	3	4	1	260	22,400

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

R. HARTLEY,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

